



Ward 5 Spring ResiStat

May 26th, 2009

City of Somerville

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

Sean O'Donovan, Alderman, Ward 5



Overview of Meeting: Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Somerville trivia!
3. Overview of budget decisions
4. Updates on previously identified issues
 1. Quality of Life: *ISD Ticket issuance*
 2. Public Safety: *Car break-in data*
 3. Parks: *Albion, Craigie Street, Community Path*
 4. Development: *Magoun Square reconstruction, Porter Square visioning, Max Pak site. Citywide visioning*
 3. Streets & Traffic
 4. Other Updates
5. Wrap Up

Overview of Meeting: Somerville Trivia

Which of the following is NOT a true fact about Ward 5, as compared to other wards?

- ☐ It has the *highest* home ownership rate citywide
- ☐ It has the *most* single family homes.
- ☐ It saw the *lowest* jump in property values between 2003 and 2008.
- ☐ There were *most* 311 calls about snow removal.



Budget: Overview of Current Budget

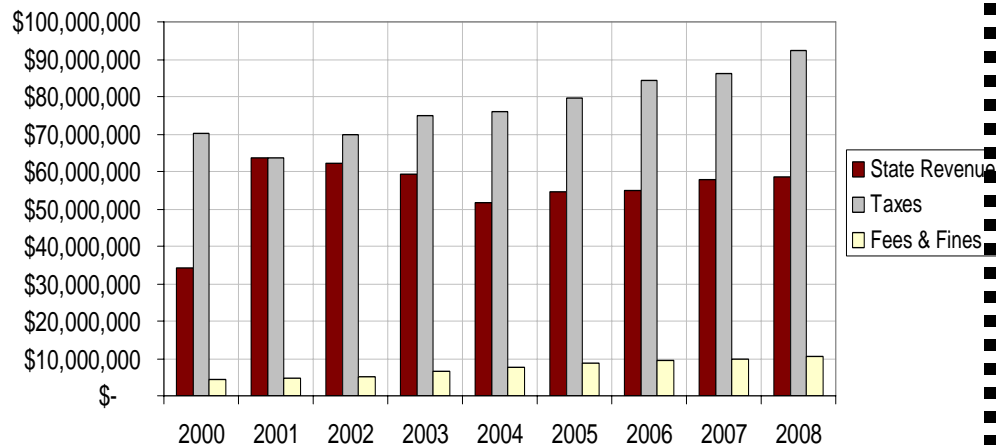
Sources of \$165 Million:

- City relies on state aid for 32% of revenue, but aid has been falling.
- Taxes have risen, but are limited by proposition 2 ½.
- Fines and fees have risen.

Uses of \$165 Million:

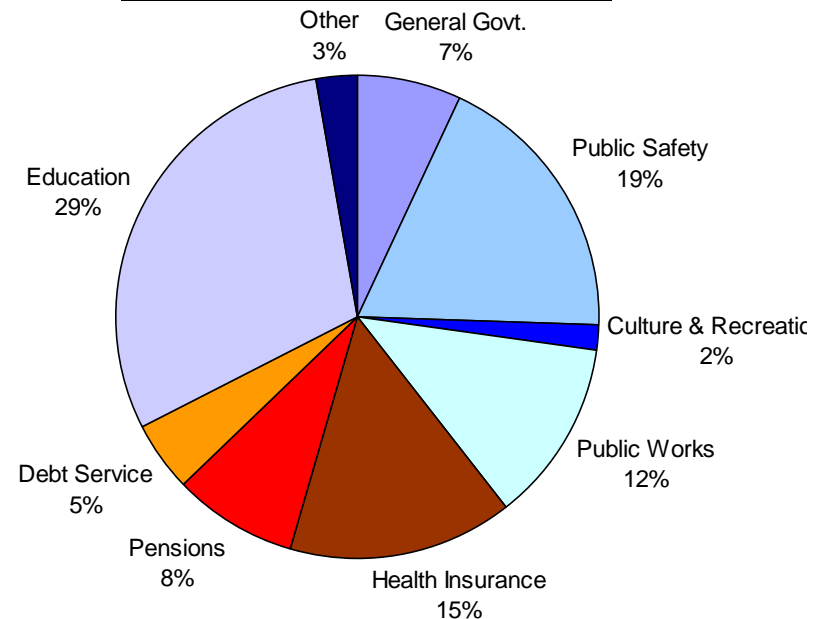
- Salaries/benefits are 78% of budget.
- Health insurance, energy costs, and pensions spending have increased.
- 28% of spending is on Health, Pensions, and Debt.

Sources of Funds 2000-2008



Slide 4

Uses of Funds FY2009



Budget: How State Aid affects us



THIS YEAR (ends June 30th)

- State faces a \$2.4 billion shortfall this fiscal year.
- This meant a \$128 million cut in local aid, which resulted in a \$2.9 million State aid cut for Somerville (combination City-School effort)

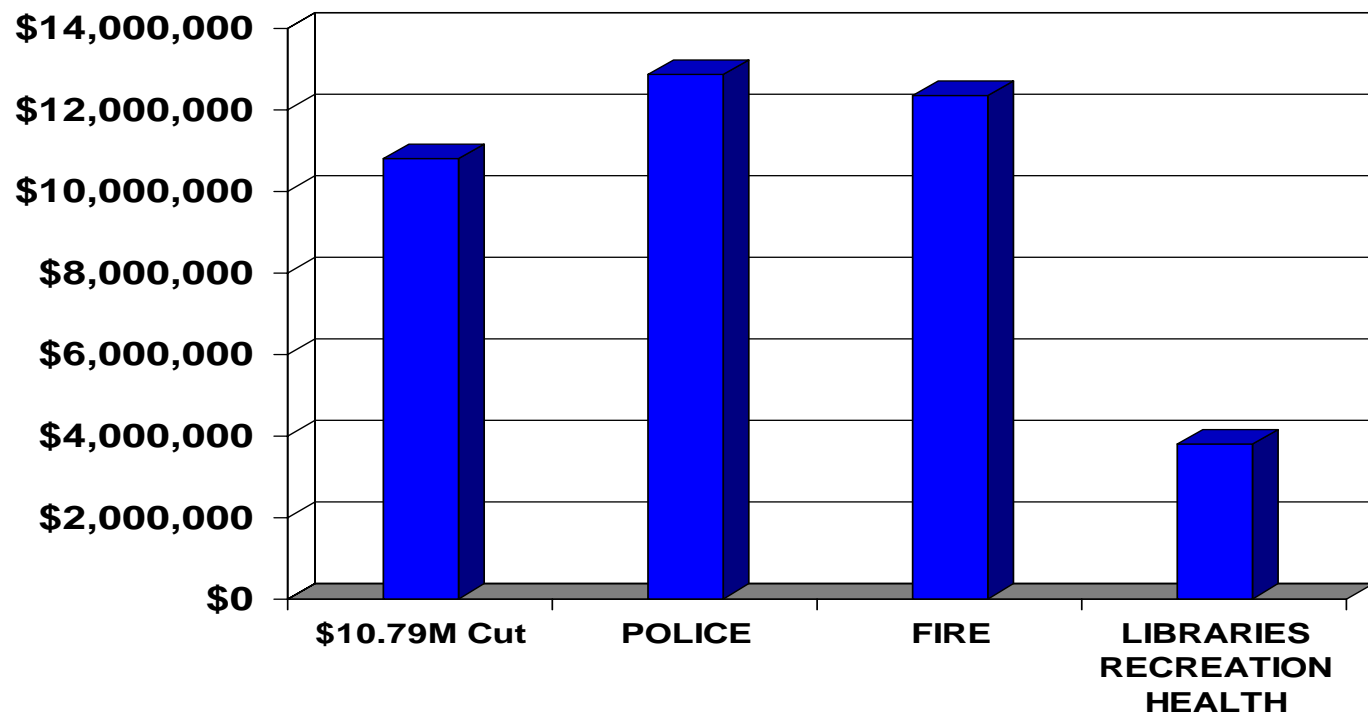
NEXT YEAR (begins July 1st)

- House had proposed \$424 million in State aid cuts
 - \$177M more than the Governor's proposal, leaving cities and towns with 32% less State aid than their FY09 budgets.
 - Additional cuts seen in library aid, community policing and anti-gang funding, and police career incentive.
- **UDPATE:** On April 27th House approved, by a veto-proof margin, an increase of the Statewide sales tax from 5% to 6.25%
 - House committed to restoring \$200 million back to municipal aid
 - Potential gap for Somerville is between \$6.22 million and \$10.79 million

Budget: Summing up the Problem

- The FY2010 *estimated* revenue loss from State aid is \$10.79 million (House Ways and Means voted last night; awaiting word on restoration of aid. Still a work in progress!)
- A revenue reduction of this magnitude is equivalent to, for example:

Estimated
Cut as
Compared
to Existing
Budgets



Budget: What are we doing?

Examples of Possible Reductions in Expenditures

- Increase in health insurance contributions
- Wage freezes, furloughs, and consolidations
- Hiring and overtime restrictions
- Restrictive purchasing policies
- Reduction in consumption
- School Department reductions in spending

Examples of Possible Increases in Revenue

- Parking enforcement changes, including increases in hours of operation, meter rates, and permit parking
- Aggressive delinquent collections on all bills due
- Fines, fees, and permits increases
- Sale/lease of City property

Steps Requiring Actions of External Parties

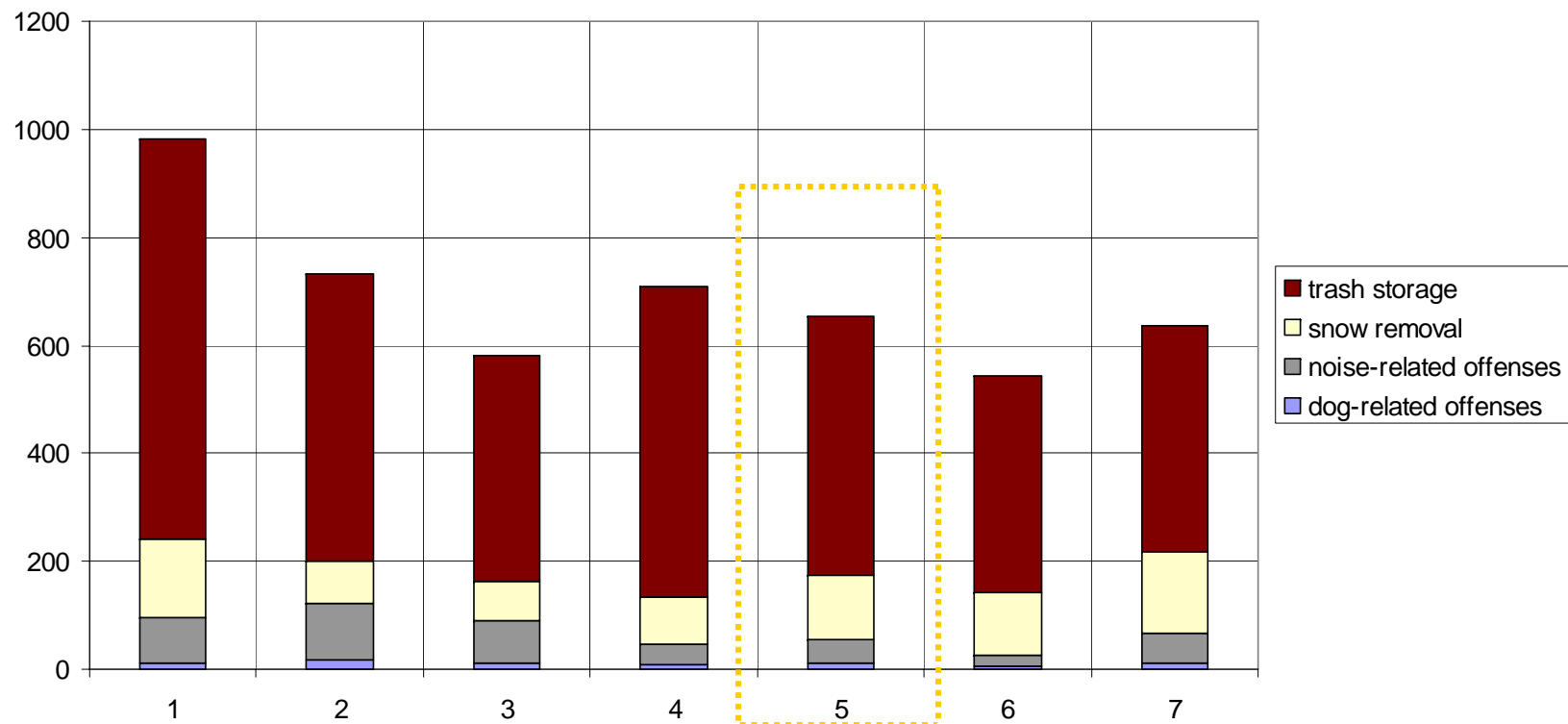
- Municipal Partnership Act
- Regionalization of service delivery
- Red-light enforcement
- Use of Federal Stimulus funding

Updates: Quality of Life – Ticket Issuance

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- 654 tickets were issued by Inspectional Services in Ward 5 from 7/1/08 to 4/13/09.
- 480 were for trash storage, 119 were for snow removal, 43 were for noise-related offenses, and 12 were for dog-related offenses.

Ticket Issuance by Type and Ward (7/1/08 to 4/13/09)

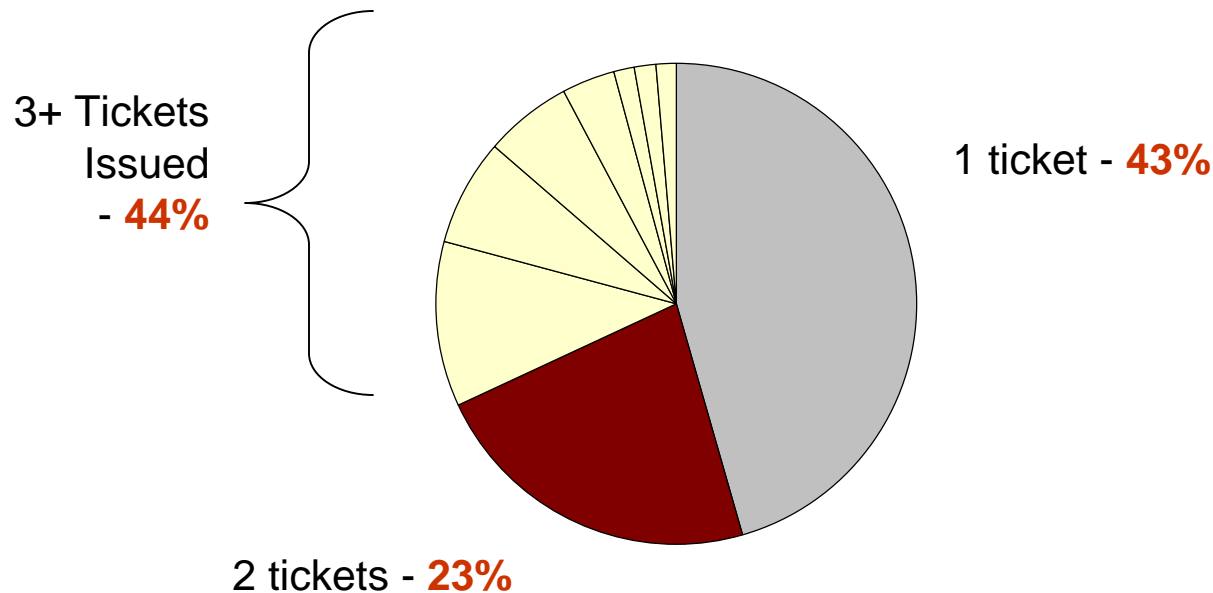


Updates: Quality of Life – Ticket Issuance

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- 57% of tickets in Ward 5 were issued to locations with more than 1 ticket.
- 21% of tickets were issued to addresses with 4 or more tickets.
- Neighborhood Impact Team intervenes in properties with multiple or repeat issues, though it is hard to collect on properties in foreclosure.

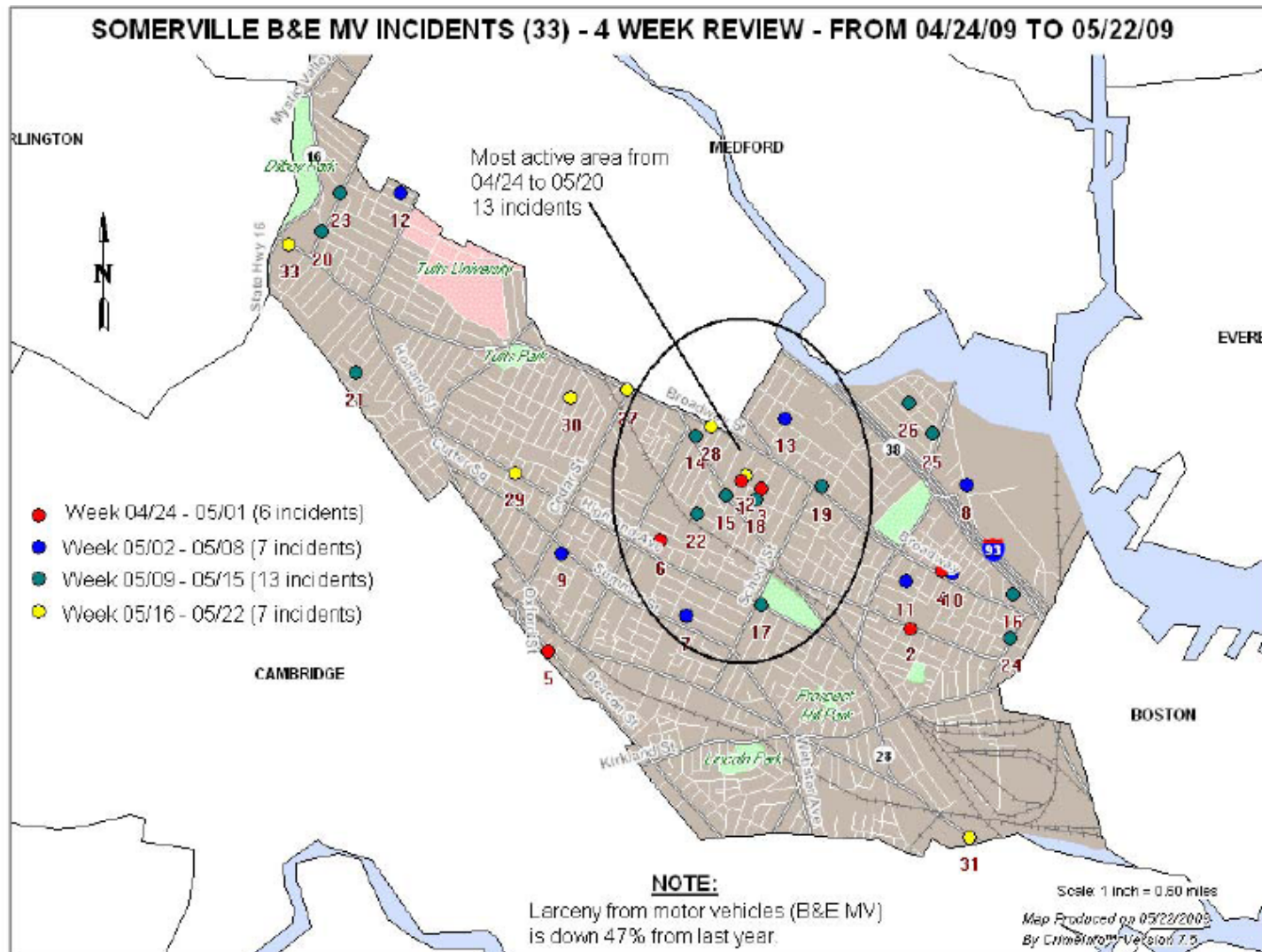
Ticket Issuance by Number of Tickets Received at Location (7/1/08 to 4/13/09)



Updates: Public Safety – MV B&Es

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- Central part of city has more car break-ins than other parts of city
- However, overall, car break-ins are down 47 percent over last year.



Updates: Parks – Albion Park

- Groundbreaking was on 4/15
- Planned opening is September.



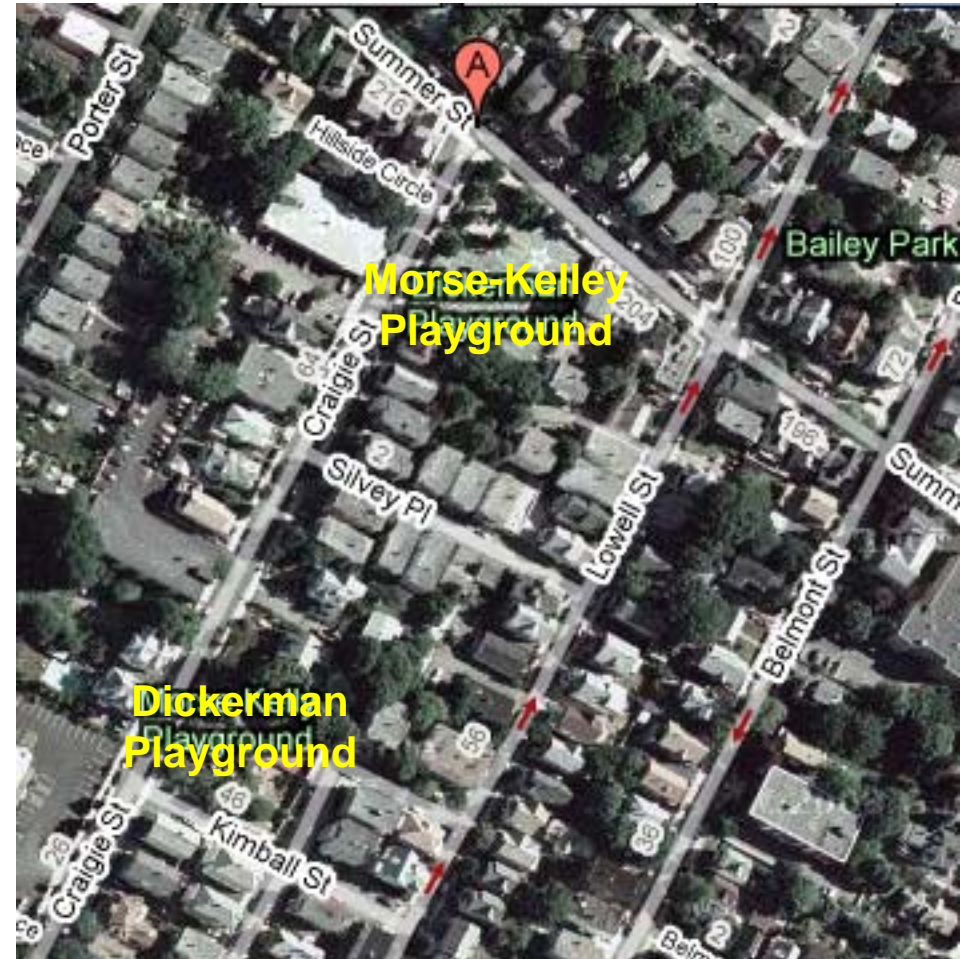
Updates: Parks – Highland Gardens

- Goal is to create community garden and improve drainage on bike path, close to Lexington Park.
- City used grant money to carry out soil testing.
- Contamination was found, which requires clean up.
- Clay was found below the topsoil. This will affect how the solution to the drainage issue is designed
- The City must now work to identify funds to complete clean up and drainage.



Updates: Parks – Craigie Street

- City plans to spend some of the CDBG stimulus funding it has received to carry out design work for the two playgrounds on Craigie Street.
- RFQ for both playgrounds has been issued, and designer selection is anticipated for June 2009.
- Community meetings to be scheduled later this summer/fall.
- Funding for Dickerman would be to design replacements for deteriorating surfaces and wood structures and make other upgrades.



Updates: Parks – Community Path

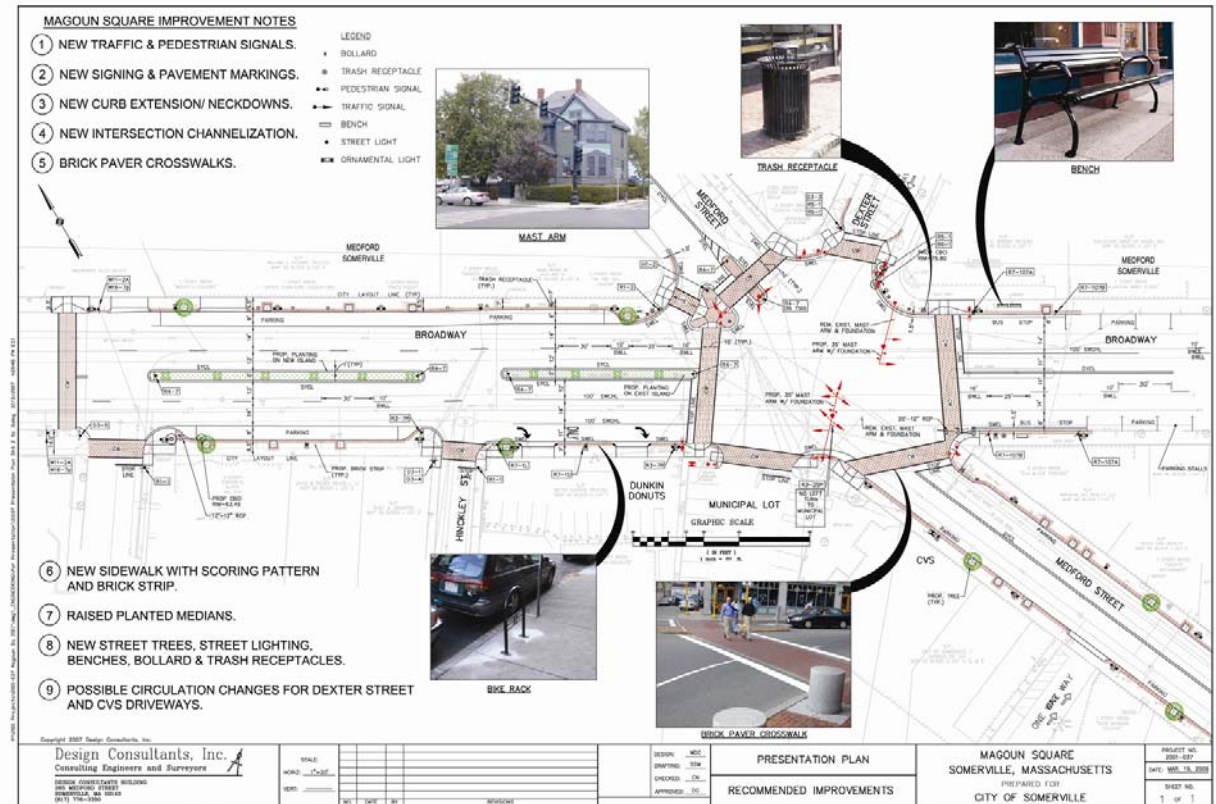
Slide 14

- **Community Path Extension:**
Aiming for Fall 2010 construction bid, construction to start in Spring 2011.



Updates: Development – Magoun Square

- Originally TIP 2012, moved up to TIP 2009 due to Federal Stimulus dollars. Total project costs \$3.1 million.
- DCI submitted 100% design, should be approved this week.
- MassHW to advertise bid on 6/27.
- Reconstruction will make intersection ADA compliant and safer for all modes of travel (pedestrian crossings, lane markings, signalization, pedestrian actuated push buttons and countdown pedestrian heads, new street lights, and an emergency vehicle pre-emption system).



Updates: Development – Porter Square

- 35-unit boutique hotel proposed for former gas station at Beacon and Oxford.
- Plan is moving forward while series of visioning meetings for neighborhood occurs in parallel.
- Visioning meetings have yielded the following comments:
 - Safe, pedestrian oriented streets
 - Ground floor retail and small business uses
 - Develop gateways with signature buildings (Wilson Square Triangle, & 369 Beacon)
 - Provide more guidelines for new construction
 - Appropriate development over MBTA tracks
 - Incorporate open space into design
 - Promote transit over automobile
- *One comment: “My dream for Somerville Ave. and Beacon St. is that they become so lively and attractive that people want to walk along them between Porter Square, Union Square and Inman Square.”*



Updates: Development – Max Pak site

- MaxPak received approval of its Master Plan in April 2008 and received a Special Permit with Site Plan Review (SPSR) for the entire site in December 2008.
- Their next step is to apply for a demolition permit for the remaining structure and a building permit to start the new construction.
- The City worked with the developer to secure a brownfields loan for site clean up and there is a public review process required as part of the loan.



Updates: Development – Citywide Visioning

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- City will prepare a Comprehensive Plan to manage the many changes underway (e.g. new transit stops, interest in green/sustainable living, changing land use patterns)
- The Plan will be a vision of what the community wants for both growth/change and neighborhood preservation. It will include the steps needed to meet that vision.
- It will include an analysis of current and historical trends, an overall vision for the future of the city, key principles that shape the vision, and a land-use map.
- Plans will be developed through an extensive community input process. Schedule for Trends meetings throughout the summer are available on a handout and the City website.

Population Trends

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

Capuano Early Education Center, 150 Glen Street

Economic Development Trends

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell Street, 3rd floor

Population Trends

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

TAB Building (Senior Center), 167 Holland Street

Economic Development Trends

Tuesday, July 7, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

Argenziano School, 290 Washington Street, Cafetorium

Transportation & Infrastructure Trends

Tuesday, July 21, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

Capuano Early Education Center, 150 Glen Street

Transportation & Infrastructure Trends

Tuesday, August 4, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

TAB Building (Senior Center), 167 Holland Street

Housing Trends

Tuesday, August 25, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

TAB Building (Senior Center), 167 Holland Street

Land Use Trends

Monday, September 14, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

Capuano Early Education Center, 150 Glen Street

Housing Trends

Tuesday, September 22, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

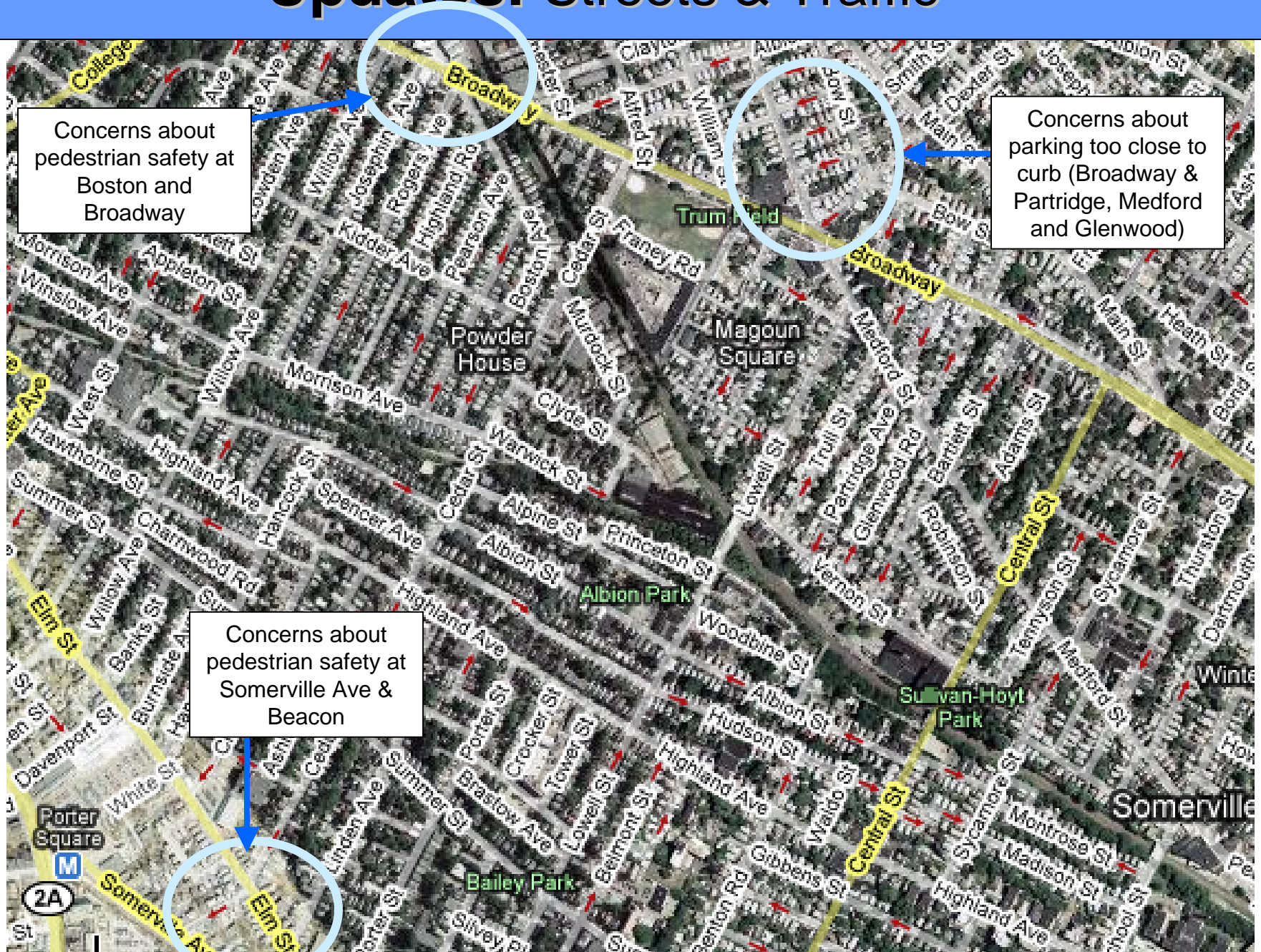
Capuano Early Education Center, 150 Glen Street

Land Use Trends

Monday, September 28, 2009 6:30pm-8:30pm

TAB Building (Senior Center), 167 Holland Street

Updates: Streets & Traffic



Other Updates

- **House at Medford and Trull:** Renovation is underway and is compliant with building code requirements.
- **Business Assistance for Businesses in Magoun and Ball Squares:** City has several initiatives that assist businesses, including a Storefront Improvement Program and training. There is new funding for additional storefront grants, for matching loan funds, and for interior improvements for retail businesses.
- **Frustrations with 89 Bus Route:** City encourages people to contact the MBTA directly with concerns, however, they should also continue to inform the City so that the City can advocate for constituent concerns in regular meetings with the MBTA. Also, City plans to launch a citywide transportation study in the fall. This study, most likely to be carried out with the assistance of a consultant, will result in a holistic planning process for transportation, including both bus routes and how they relate to the future new transit stops.
- **Ward 5 Street Resurfacing:** Streets planned for resurfacing this year – Francis, Lowell Terrace, Conwell, Eastman, Spencer.

Other Updates: Airplane Noise

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- **Overview:** The City has been seeking other communities to share the cost and effort of mounting a challenge to the FAA, but the current fiscal crisis has caused our neighbors to decline. City is, however, continuing our efforts on both the legal and administrative fronts.
- **Legal Approach:** City is working concurrently on three legal approaches.
 1. Gathering data and analysis of air flight traffic over Somerville since Runway 14/32 opened in 2006 to determine possibilities for initiating a lawsuit to protect residents' interests. You can help by contacting Tom Champion (tchampion@somervillema.gov) to let him know if you can provide testimony on your individual and family stories of significant disruption and negative effects from aircraft noise.
 2. Exploring whether Somerville should join an effort to re-open a case resolved in 2004 that had sought to prevent the construction of Runway 14/32 at Logan Airport. According to the court's judgment, the case was supposed to result in the new Runway 14/32 being unidirectional (with landings and takeoffs from the seaward side except in extreme conditions), and that its use would not significantly affect overall noise levels from Logan operations. Yet a direct result of construction of Runway 14/32 appears to be a major shift of usage patterns on other runways and in particular a near-tripling of takeoffs from Runway 33L, which sends low-altitude jets directly over Somerville .
 3. Monitoring a citizens' lawsuit filed mainly by Chelsea residents concerning the increase in airplane traffic and associated noise.
- **Administrative:** The Mayor has been working with Congressman Capuano's office to find a solution based on a cooperative effort with the Obama Administration and the FAA..

Other Updates: Citywide Tree Inventory

What is a public tree inventory?

- A catalog of **all trees** and planting sites in the public right-of-way
- A record of the location, species, health, and maintenance needs of **every** city tree

What are the benefits of a tree inventory?

- Provides a tool for evaluating the make-up and health of the urban forest
- Allows us to quantify the economic and health benefits of “green infrastructure”
- Will serve as the basis for a citywide Urban Forest Management Plan
- Acts as a centerpiece for public outreach and public education about tree health
- Increases funding chances for city forestry grants

Who will conduct Somerville’s tree Inventory? And when?

- Davey Resource Group—a team of Certified Arborists
- Data will be collected on handheld computers with GIS and GPS capabilities
- Inventory began in May 18th and will end no later than June 30th.

Residents will be able to view data online in a read-only format.

For more information, contact the **Urban Forest Initiative** at (617) 625-6600 x 2516


Upcoming Events

- Electronics Recycling Day, 5/30, 9:00 to 1:00, Dilboy Field parking lot
- Centennial Celebration of West Branch Library, 5/30, 1:00 p.m.
- Family Fun Day, 6/27, Trum Field
- Citywide Visioning:
 - Presentations/discussions on Population Trends, Economic Development, Transportation, Housing, and Land Use.
 - Dates are 5/26, 6/9, 6/23, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4, 8/25, 9/14, 9/22, 9/18. Please visit the City's website for more information on times, topics, and locations.
- Also, coming soon: Summer Movies, Sunsetters, Fireworks, and much more!

Reminder - Call 311

- Graffiti
- Park maintenance
- Abandoned shopping carts
- Non-criminal code violations
- Drinking in parks
- Noisy parties

powered by **IntelliGov**

No. Citizens: 2149 City of Somerville, Mass. 

Data as of: 4/17/2009 11:11:11 AM

Select Chart: **Top Citizen Callers** Citizen Detail

Clear Map Selections Hide Map Id

Call Date	Service Type	Department	Ticket No.	Priority	Open
Year	CS-Airplane Noise	Constituent Services	W000644-12...	1 2 3 4 5	Y N
Month	DPW-Abandoned Shopping Cart	DPW-Highway	W000699-12...	Visible to Citizens	OnTime
Day	DPW-Graffiti-Removal	Alerts	W000749-12...	Y N	Y U N
DOW	AC-Animal Abuse	Animal Control	W000850-01...		
Week	AC-Animal Found	Comm-Connect	W000851-01...		
Hour					

Call Taker	Zipcode	Ward	CallType	Internal	Auto Close
aterrio	02143 02144 02145 02155 02140 02150	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Info Repeat SR	Y N	Y N
bmccarthy					
brogers					
btanner					
dguzman					
dpickett					
diogee					

Call Resolution

Auto Closed...
Closed-Com...
Closed-No A...
Previously c...
Closed-Area...

Call Origin

CallCenter

Top Citizen Repeat Callers

Address	Name	Citizen.StreetA...	City	No. Calls
Total				2885
7633 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	100
1 ANONYMOUS		1 FRANEY RD	SOMERVILLE	99
9186 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	80
1878 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	65
8960 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	63
2111 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	37
8376 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	30
1817 WORKER, DPW		1 FRANEY RD	SOMERVILLE	20
314 HIRSCH, STEPHANIE		17 FREMONT AVE	SOMERVILLE	15
9220 WORKER, DPW			SOMERVILLE	14

Next Steps

- Distribute and post minutes from this meeting
- Direct concerns to departments in SomerStat and BOA meetings
- Enter 311 requests when appropriate
- Respond to questions on the mailing list
- Meet again next fall

Contact us anytime!

Stephanie Hirsch

SomerStat Office, City Hall

shirsch@somervillma.gov

(617) 625-6600 x2103

Sean O'Donovan

Ward 5 Alderman

sean@odonovanlaw.com

(617) 776-6456